

1 1. (amended) A method for assisting a user in identifying a subfamily of items within a
2 family of items, comprising the steps of:

3 (a) providing a computer readable data file of stored information representing at least one
4 family of items, said data file identifying at least one alternative for each item,

5 (b) reading said data file,

6 (c) displaying a feature screen indicating said alternatives represented in the family,

7 (d) accepting a first selection criteria of at least one [selected]alternative,

B2 8 (e) determining a first[the] subfamily of items wherein each said item in the first
9 subfamily satisfies said first selection criteria[selected alternatives],

10 (f) determining available alternatives represented in the first subfamily,[and unavailable
11 alternatives unrepresented in the subfamily, and]

12 (g) revising said feature screen [indicating said]to indicate the available alternatives of
13 the first subfamily,[as distinct from said unavailable alternatives.]

14 (h) accepting a second selection criteria comprising the alternative or alternatives of the
15 first selection criteria plus at least one alternative selected from the revised feature screen,

16 (i) determining a second subfamily of items of the family wherein each item in the
17 second subfamily satisfies said second selection criteria,

18 (j) determining available alternatives represented in the second subfamily, and

19 (k) revising said feature screen to indicate the available alternatives of the second
20 subfamily.

[Please add the following new claims:

B3 1 5 ~~31~~. (New) A method for assisting a user in identifying a subfamily of items within a
2 family of items, comprising the steps of:

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3 (a) providing a computer readable data file of stored information representing at least one
4 family of items, said data file identifying at least one alternative for each item,

5 (b) reading said data file,

6 (c) displaying a feature screen indicating said alternatives represented in the family,

7 (d) accepting a selection criteria of more than one of said alternatives,

8 (e) determining the subfamily of items wherein each said item in the subfamily satisfies
9 said selection criteria,

10 (f) in the event the subfamily comprises zero items, deselecting the most recently selected
11 alternative of that selection criteria,

12 (g) determining the subfamily of items wherein each said item in the subfamily satisfies
13 said selection criteria as modified by the deselection of the most recently selected alternative,

14 (h) revising said feature screen to indicate the available alternatives of the subfamily.

1 2 32. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein each family has at least one feature
2 associated therewith and further comprising the step of

3 displaying at least one grouping wherein each said grouping comprises one of said
4 features visually related to respective alternatives.

1 3 33. (New) The method according to claim 32 and further comprising the step of:
2 providing an interactive pointer and displaying information specific to one of said
3 features upon a user initiated signal when said pointer is pointing to a feature caption on said
4 feature screen.

1 4 34. (New) The method according to claim 32 wherein at least one said groupings is
2 hidden from view if all said respective alternatives are not available.

1 6 35. (New) The method of claim 31 wherein each family has at least one feature
2 associated therewith and further comprising the step of